

\*\*\* NOTE: TO RETURN TO THIS PAGE, CLICK ON THE COUNTY SEAL \*\*\*

[CLICK HERE FOR DCFS's REPORT DATED MAY 24, 2007](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR DCFS's REPORT DATED NOVEMBER 27, 2007](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR DCFS's REPORT DATED MAY 24, 2007](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR DCFS's REPORT DATED JULY 8, 2008](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR DCFS's REPORT DATED NOVEMBER 13, 2008](#)



**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

**PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW**  
Director

**Board of Supervisors**

**GLORIA MOLINA**

First District

**YVONNE B. BURKE**

Second District

**ZEV YAROSLAVSKY**

Third District

**DON KNABE**

Fourth District

**MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH**

Fifth District

May 24, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW  
Director

**MARCH 13, 2007 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #15 – EDUCATION CONSULTANT REFERRALS  
AND BIENNIAL REPORT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS' PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

On March 13, 2007, your Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to prepare a report biennially with substantive measurable data on the performance of school districts in providing educational services for foster children and report back within 60 days on:

1. The method the Department of Children and Family Services will use to track data on the referrals received by the Education Consultants, including assessing that school districts:
  - Complete special education assessments and Individualized Education Plans appropriately and in a timely manner;
  - Comply with due process requirements when suspending, expelling and ordering "opportunity transfers";
  - Enroll children in a timely manner;
  - Provide school records in a timely manner;
  - Award partial credit when appropriate;
  - Provide tutoring and academic mentoring; and
2. The format the Director of Children and Family Services will use to prepare a report with substantive measurable data and evaluation provided.

The Department is very excited about the arrival of the Education Consultants into our regional offices and we look forward to building new relationships with the various school districts as we work together to improve the educational outcomes for the children we serve.

The Referral for Education Consultant Services (Attachment A) is completed and submitted by the Children's Social Worker (CSW) or caregiver to the Education Consultant to begin the process. The issues addressed on the referral range from suspension and expulsion, which will always take first priority, to special education assessments, Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Student Study or Success Team (SST), to academic and behavioral problems, and various AB 490 concerns. All of these matters will initially require direct communication with the involved school site and then the district office, if necessary. Therefore, it is very important for the Department to keep the lines of communication open with each district we work with to develop and strengthen relationships to reach a shared understanding on the importance of improving the educational outcomes for the children served by both agencies.

The Education Consultants will work closely with schools when advocating for the needs of our youth. Many individuals at school sites are unfamiliar with AB 490 and the rights it bestows on foster youth. This allows for a training opportunity to educate the school about the new law while resolving the enrollment or school stability issue. By taking this approach we will improve the service to our youth. The same will apply with the school district's knowledge and compliance with special education law and the due process requirements in discipline. The role of the Education Consultant is to advocate for the child's educational needs in a collaborative rather than adversarial manner.

Therefore, on the second page of the referral form, the Education Consultant will rate the school's knowledge and compliance on special education law, discipline due process requirements and AB 490. Once the issues on the referral have been resolved, the Education Consultants will turn both pages of the referral form into the program manager. The ratings will be compiled utilizing an Excel Spreadsheet format to prepare a report with substantive, measurable data. Should the data evaluation indicate that a particular school or district is consistently deficient in any of the three target areas, appropriate action will be initiated and the need for in-service training will be discussed with the district.

If you have questions, please call me or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Manager, Board Relations Section at (213) 351-5530.

PSP:AC:JH

PA:pa

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Audit Committee

## **Attachment A**

### **Referral for Education Consultant Services**



**Referral for Education Consultant Services**

Office Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

CSW Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Case/ State Number \_\_\_\_\_

Holder of Ed. Rights Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Caregiver's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School of Attendance \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*If child is in out-of-home care, please provide the signed Parental Consent and Authorization for Medical Care and Release of Health and Education Records (DCFS 179).*

Assistance required with (Please check):

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Enrollment  | <input type="checkbox"/> School of Origin                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of Records  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Problems  | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Problems                 | <input type="checkbox"/> AB3632               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension   | <input type="checkbox"/> Expulsion                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity Transfer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance   | <input type="checkbox"/> Truancy                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Remedial Services    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Center Referral   | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Study or Success Team (SST) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Assessment   | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Education Plan (IEP)     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California High School Exit Exam   | <input type="checkbox"/> Holder of Education Rights          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in Multi- Disciplinary Group Decision Making Process (TDM) |  |   |

Other Concerns, Questions and/or Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form to, \_\_\_\_\_, Educational Consultant on the  
Consultant's Name

\_\_\_\_\_ floor, desk (Number) . If you have any questions or concerns the consultant can be reached at:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone numbers)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail address)

**Services Provided by Educational Consultant**  
**(This section to be completed by Educational Consultant)**

Date Opened \_\_\_\_\_

Date Closed \_\_\_\_\_

Consultant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking number \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_

School Representative's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Addressed \_\_\_\_\_

Actions taken \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Resolution \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School's Involvement was at: ☐ School Site ☐ District Level

Knowledge & compliance with:

Special Education Law: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

Due Process Requirements in Discipline: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

AB 490: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

As a result of working with the school/district, a working relationship has developed to improve future communication: ☐ Yes ☐ Somewhat ☐ No

Total Amount of Time Invested \_\_\_\_\_



PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW  
Director

**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

November 27, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW  
Director

**Board of Supervisors**

GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**MARCH 13, 2007 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #15 – EDUCATION CONSULTANT REFERRALS  
AND BI-ANNUAL REPORT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS' PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

On March 13, 2007, your Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to prepare a report bi-annually with substantive, measurable data on the performance of school districts in providing educational services for foster children and report back within 60 days on:

1. The method the Department of Children and Family Services will use to track data on the referrals received by the Education Consultants include assessing the school districts:
  - Complete special education assessments and Individualized Education Plans appropriately and in a timely manner;
  - Comply with due process requirements when suspending, expelling and ordering "opportunity transfers;"
  - Enroll children in a timely manner;
  - Provide school records in a timely manner;
  - Award partial credit when appropriate;
  - Provide tutoring and academic mentoring; and
2. The format the Director of Children and Family Services will use to prepare a report with substantive, measurable data and evaluation provided.

Ten contracts for Education Consultant Services were renewed for the 2007/2008 fiscal year providing 20 to 40 hours of coverage to twelve of the Department's nineteen regional offices. The offices being serviced are Lancaster, Palmdale, Glendora, Pasadena, El Monte, Metro North, West Los Angeles, Hawthorne, Wateridge, Belvedere, Santa Fe Springs, and Lakewood.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

Efforts are currently underway to contract for an additional four Education Consultants with an anticipated start date of April 1, 2008.

The services of the Education Consultants have been well received by the Children's Social Workers (CSW), the caregivers, and the school districts since their official arrival into the regional offices on April 1, 2007. The focused and knowledgeable educational advocacy has been a welcomed asset in serving the educational needs of the youth in care. The Education Consultants are providing a voice for the youth to ensure their education rights are addressed and received. The Consultants know the education code and the language used by the schools as well as how to navigate the vast school systems. They are able to effectively and efficiently address the service requested by the CSW to get the child's education back on track.

The Referral for Education Consultant Services (Attachment A) is completed and submitted by CSW or caregiver to the Education Consultant to begin the process. The issues addressed on the referral range from suspension and expulsion, which always take first priority, to special education assessments, Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Student Study or Success Team (SST), to academic and behavioral problems, and various AB 490 concerns. Work with the IEPs range from drafting a written request to the school for an initial assessment to determine if special education services are warranted to advocating for costly accommodations. The Education Consultant will then attend the IEP meeting to insure all of the child's educational needs are addressed and accommodations and directives are written into the IEP to obligate the school district to provide the necessary services. An informal follow-up by the Education Consultant is then conducted to insure the school remains in compliance with the IEP.

An important, unforeseen outcome has occurred on many occasions when a child in special education has been suspended or expelled from school. In the resulting hearings, the Education Consultants have successfully argued that the disciplinary action was inappropriate and illegal due to the school district's non-compliance with the child's current IEP. This advocacy has reversed the disciplinary action which allows the child back into the school and expunges the adverse mark in the school record. Further, it brings to the forefront that the school district is in non-compliance and strongly encourages the enforcement of the directives on the child's IEP. This would never have happened without the knowledge and service of the Education Consultants.

#### **Data Outcomes**

Data has been collected and tabulated for six months commencing April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007 to determine the performance outcomes of the services provided by the Education Consultants. There are eighteen specific service areas with a nineteenth choice for "other." Multiple service areas can be selected for each referral; therefore, when tabulating 100% will be exceeded. The cases are not counted until each service area has been resolved. Once a resolution has been reached for all the selected service areas on the referral, the case is considered completed. A total of 778 cases have been completed. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the referrals involved enrollment, academic and IEP issues, with



the breakdown being: Enrollment with 221 cases or 28.4%, Academic (poor grades) 192 cases or 24.7%, and IEPs with 170 cases or 21.9%. As expected the next three highest requested areas of service were: Records with 106 cases or 13.6%, Behavior with 99 cases or 12.7% and then Special Education issues with 72 cases or 9.3% (Attachment B).

All of these matters require direct communication with the involved school site and perhaps the district office. Therefore, it is very important for the Department to keep the lines of communication open with each district we work with to develop and strengthen relationships to reach a shared understanding on the importance of improving the educational outcomes for the children served by both agencies.

The Education Consultants work closely with schools when advocating for the needs of our youth. Many individuals at school sites are unfamiliar with AB 490 and the rights it bestows on foster youth. This allows for a training opportunity to educate the school about the new law while resolving the enrollment or school stability issue. By taking this approach we improve the service to our youth. The same applies with the school district's knowledge and compliance with special education law and the due process requirements in discipline. The role of the Education Consultant is to advocate for the child's educational needs in a collaborative rather than adversarial manner.

The Education Consultants report that the majority of the interaction with the various schools and school district personnel has led to the development of a stronger working relationship which will improve future communication. The non-compliance issue with the IEP for a large number of our special education youth has precipitated a request by the Education Consultants to meet with the Special Education Division of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to open discussions about stricter and more consistent compliance with the IEP directives for youth being served by the Department. The Education Program Manager is making this arrangement.

The Department is very encouraged by the success of the Education Consultants and the collaborative bridges that have been built with the school districts serving our youth.

If you have questions, please call me or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Board Relations Section Manager at (213) 351-5530.

PSP:AC:JH

PA:pa

Attachments

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**Referral for Education Consultant Services**

Office Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

CSW Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Case/ State Number \_\_\_\_\_

Holder of Ed. Rights Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Caregiver's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School of Attendance \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*If child is in out-of-home care, please provide the signed Parental Consent and Authorization for Medical Care and Release of Health and Education Records (DCFS 179).*

Assistance required with (Please check):

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Enrollment  | <input type="checkbox"/> School of Origin                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of Records  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Problems  | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Problems                 | <input type="checkbox"/> AB3632               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension   | <input type="checkbox"/> Expulsion                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity Transfer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance   | <input type="checkbox"/> Truancy                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Remedial Services    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Center Referral   | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Study or Success Team (SST) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Assessment   | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Education Plan (IEP)     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California High School Exit Exam   | <input type="checkbox"/> Holder of Education Rights          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in Multi- Disciplinary Group Decision Making Process (TDM) |  |   |

Other Concerns, Questions and/or Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form to, \_\_\_\_\_, Educational Consultant on the  
Consultant's Name

floor, desk \_\_\_\_\_ . If you have any questions or concerns the consultant can be reached at:  
(Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone numbers)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail address)

**Services Provided by Educational Consultant**  
**(This section to be completed by Educational Consultant)**

Date Opened \_\_\_\_\_

Date Closed \_\_\_\_\_

Consultant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking number \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_

School Representative's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Addressed \_\_\_\_\_

Actions taken \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution \_\_\_\_\_

School's Involvement was at: ☐ School Site ☐ District Level

Knowledge & compliance with:

Special Education Law: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

Due Process Requirements in Discipline: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

AB 490: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

As a result of working with the school/district, a working relationship has developed to improve  
future communication: ☐ Yes ☐ Somewhat ☐ No

Total Amount of Time Invested \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILY SERVICES

APR TO SEP 2007 (CLOSED)		TRACKING LOG for EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES																	
No.	Avg Months	TYPE OF SERVICE																	
		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
All Consultants		36	18	18	28	12	3	3	8	3	8	3	3	5	5	22	3	5	18
APRIL	0.2	36	18	18	28	12	3	3	8	3	8	3	3	5	5	22	3	5	18
MAY	0.5	37	4	24	30	19	3	2	1	14	5	7	2	5	8	38	1	2	32
JUNE	0.7	21	4	10	35	20	8	0	6	8	8	1	2	1	14	38	5	0	44
JULY	1.0	26	5	21	33	11	2	3	3	5	3	4	4	3	19	28	2	1	18
AUGUST	1.3	22	12	15	24	10	2	1	1	4	0	3	1	1	11	13	1	1	23
SEPTEMBER	1.3	79	17	20	42	27	5	3	1	14	5	7	1	10	15	35	4	3	47
Total	0.8	221	80	104	192	98	23	12	20	49	27	25	11	25	72	170	16	12	182
		28.4%	7.7%	13.6%	24.7%	12.7%	3.0%	1.5%	2.6%	6.3%	3.5%	3.2%	1.4%	3.2%	9.3%	21.9%	2.1%	1.5%	23.4%
Type of Service (Definition)																			
School Enrollment		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
School of Origin		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Transfer Records		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Academic Problems		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Behavior Problems		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Suspension		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Expulsion		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Opportunity Transfer		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Attendance		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Truancy		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Remedial Services		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Regional Center Referral		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Student Study Team		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Special Education Assessment		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Individual Education Plan		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
CA High School Exit Exam		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Holder of Education Rights		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Participation in TDM		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR
Other		ENROLL	SCHORG	RECS	ACAD	BEHAV	SUSP	EXPLS	OPPTIR	ATTNDC	TRNCTY	RMOL	REGCTR	SST	SOCLED	EP	CAHSEE	HEDRGT	OTHR





**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

**PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW**  
Director

**Board of Supervisors**

**GLORIA MOLINA**

First District

**YVONNE B. BURKE**

Second District

**ZEV YAROSLAVSKY**

Third District

**DON KNABE**

Fourth District

**MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH**

Fifth District

May 24, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW  
Director

**MARCH 13, 2007 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #15 – EDUCATION CONSULTANT REFERRALS  
AND BIENNIAL REPORT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS' PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

On March 13, 2007, your Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to prepare a report biennially with substantive measurable data on the performance of school districts in providing educational services for foster children and report back within 60 days on:

1. The method the Department of Children and Family Services will use to track data on the referrals received by the Education Consultants, including assessing that school districts:
  - Complete special education assessments and Individualized Education Plans appropriately and in a timely manner;
  - Comply with due process requirements when suspending, expelling and ordering "opportunity transfers";
  - Enroll children in a timely manner;
  - Provide school records in a timely manner;
  - Award partial credit when appropriate;
  - Provide tutoring and academic mentoring; and
2. The format the Director of Children and Family Services will use to prepare a report with substantive measurable data and evaluation provided.

The Department is very excited about the arrival of the Education Consultants into our regional offices and we look forward to building new relationships with the various school districts as we work together to improve the educational outcomes for the children we serve.

The Referral for Education Consultant Services (Attachment A) is completed and submitted by the Children's Social Worker (CSW) or caregiver to the Education Consultant to begin the process. The issues addressed on the referral range from suspension and expulsion, which will always take first priority, to special education assessments, Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Student Study or Success Team (SST), to academic and behavioral problems, and various AB 490 concerns. All of these matters will initially require direct communication with the involved school site and then the district office, if necessary. Therefore, it is very important for the Department to keep the lines of communication open with each district we work with to develop and strengthen relationships to reach a shared understanding on the importance of improving the educational outcomes for the children served by both agencies.

The Education Consultants will work closely with schools when advocating for the needs of our youth. Many individuals at school sites are unfamiliar with AB 490 and the rights it bestows on foster youth. This allows for a training opportunity to educate the school about the new law while resolving the enrollment or school stability issue. By taking this approach we will improve the service to our youth. The same will apply with the school district's knowledge and compliance with special education law and the due process requirements in discipline. The role of the Education Consultant is to advocate for the child's educational needs in a collaborative rather than adversarial manner.

Therefore, on the second page of the referral form, the Education Consultant will rate the school's knowledge and compliance on special education law, discipline due process requirements and AB 490. Once the issues on the referral have been resolved, the Education Consultants will turn both pages of the referral form into the program manager. The ratings will be compiled utilizing an Excel Spreadsheet format to prepare a report with substantive, measurable data. Should the data evaluation indicate that a particular school or district is consistently deficient in any of the three target areas, appropriate action will be initiated and the need for in-service training will be discussed with the district.

If you have questions, please call me or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Manager, Board Relations Section at (213) 351-5530.

PSP:AC:JH

PA:pa

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Audit Committee

## **Attachment A**

### **Referral for Education Consultant Services**



**Referral for Education Consultant Services**

Office Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

CSW Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Case/ State Number \_\_\_\_\_

Holder of Ed. Rights Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Caregiver's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School of Attendance \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*If child is in out-of-home care, please provide the signed Parental Consent and Authorization for Medical Care and Release of Health and Education Records (DCFS 179).*

Assistance required with (Please check):

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Enrollment  | <input type="checkbox"/> School of Origin                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of Records  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Problems  | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Problems                 | <input type="checkbox"/> AB3632               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension   | <input type="checkbox"/> Expulsion                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity Transfer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance   | <input type="checkbox"/> Truancy                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Remedial Services    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Center Referral   | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Study or Success Team (SST) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Assessment   | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Education Plan (IEP)     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California High School Exit Exam   | <input type="checkbox"/> Holder of Education Rights          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in Multi- Disciplinary Group Decision Making Process (TDM) |  |   |

Other Concerns, Questions and/or Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Please return completed form to, \_\_\_\_\_, Educational Consultant on the  
Consultant's Name

\_\_\_\_\_ floor, desk \_\_\_\_\_ . If you have any questions or concerns the consultant can be reached at:  
(Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone numbers)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail address)

**Services Provided by Educational Consultant**  
**(This section to be completed by Educational Consultant)**

Date Opened \_\_\_\_\_

Date Closed \_\_\_\_\_

Consultant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking number \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_

School Representative's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Addressed \_\_\_\_\_

Actions taken \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Resolution \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School's Involvement was at: ☐ School Site ☐ District Level

Knowledge & compliance with:

Special Education Law: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

Due Process Requirements in Discipline: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

AB 490: ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Needs Improvement

As a result of working with the school/district, a working relationship has developed to improve  
future communication: ☐ Yes ☐ Somewhat ☐ No

Total Amount of Time Invested \_\_\_\_\_



**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

**PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW**  
Director

July 8, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW  
Director

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District  
YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District  
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District  
DON KNABE  
Fourth District  
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**MARCH 13, 2007 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #15 – EDUCATION CONSULTANT REFERRALS  
AND BI-ANNUAL REPORT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS' PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

On March 13, 2007, your Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to prepare a report bi-annually with substantive, measurable data on the performance of school districts in providing educational services for foster children/youth and report on various critical educational components addressed by the Education Consultants.

The services of the Education Consultants continue to be well-received by the Children's Social Workers (CSWs), the caregivers, and the school districts since their official arrival into the regional offices on April 1, 2007. Ten contracts for Education Consultant Services were renewed for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 providing 20 to 40 hours of coverage each week to thirteen (13) of the Department's eighteen (18) regional offices. The offices being serviced are Lancaster, Palmdale, Glendora, Pasadena, El Monte, Metro North, West Los Angeles, Hawthorne, Wateridge, Belvedere, Corporate, Santa Fe Springs, and Lakewood.

Efforts are currently underway to contract for an additional four Education Consultants with an anticipated start date of August 1, 2008. These Consultants will serve the East San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita/West San Fernando Valley, Compton, Pomona and Covina Annex offices.

The Consultants provide focused and knowledgeable advocacy in serving the educational needs of our youth. They provide a voice for the youth to ensure their educational rights are addressed and received in a comprehensive and timely manner. As credentialed teachers, the Consultants are experts in the education code and the language used by the schools as well as navigating within the vast and varied 81 school districts within Los Angeles County. They are able to effectively and efficiently address the services requested by CSWs to get a child's education back on track.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*



To begin the process, the Referral for Education Consultant Services form is completed by the CSW or the caregiver and submitted to the Consultant. The issues addressed on the referral form range from suspension and expulsion, which always take first priority with the Consultants, to special education assessments, Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Student Study or Success Team (SST), to academic and behavioral problems, and various AB 490 concerns. Effective January 1, 2004, AB 490 imposed new duties and rights related to the education and care of dependents in foster care, including ensuring school stability and protection for grades and credits. Work regarding the IEPs ranges from drafting a written request to the school for a special education assessment, to advocating for the necessary accommodations. The Consultants will then attend the IEP meetings to ensure all of the children's educational needs, accommodations and directives are addressed and written into the IEPs to obligate the school districts in providing the necessary services. The Consultants do a follow-up contact to ensure the school remains in compliance with each IEP.

#### **Youth Benefiting from the Services Provided by the Education Consultants**

A total of 1,577 educational challenges faced by our children have been resolved by the Consultants during the first nine months of the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 (Attachment A). This total represents all of the multiple challenges faced by each referred child.

Since July 1, 2007, 24.9% or 392 children were not attending school but have since been enrolled as a result of the actions taken by a Consultant. In the past, this unacceptable situation of a child not attending school while under the jurisdiction of the Department may have gone unresolved. The reasons for this range is as follows: the child being fearful of attending local schools because of gang ties or activities; efforts not being made to enroll a child after being expelled; special education youth moving from one school to another with the new school not recognizing the child's special needs; discouraged teenagers dropping out because they are short of credits for high school graduation; schools not complying with AB 490 by refusing to enroll youth immediately due to outstanding fees and fines; not having school or immunization records; and uniforms not being available.

Concerted, hard fought efforts by the Consultants resolved many of these hurdles. Among the strategies and interventions employed by the Consultants included: seeking and obtaining permission from an outside school district to enroll the fearful foster youth into a safer school setting, re-enrolling the expelled child/youth with a behavior contract in hand, and advocating for the special education child's needs by insisting the school district follow education code and accommodate the child's educational needs. The Consultants also redirected discouraged teenagers into adult education to complete their high school diplomas in order to move into vocational training, and informed the school about the rights bestowed upon foster youth by AB 490 regarding immediate enrollment.

Another 23.2% or 366 children received IEP advocacy assistance from the Consultants. This is critical work by the Consultants considering about one-third of the youth we serve are classified as special education students. Having a Consultant participate in a child's IEP meeting provides a knowledgeable professional advocating for the child's educational needs and entitlements. With the Consultants in attendance with the CSW and/or caregiver, it is



more likely the child's actual individual educational needs will be met, rather than the provision of the school's "cookie cutter" accommodations or resources that are readily available. This added advocacy increases the child's opportunity for success.

In situations where a child in special education has been suspended or expelled from school, the Consultants' interventions have been especially important. In the resulting hearings, the Consultants have often been successful in arguing that the disciplinary action was inappropriate and illegal due to the school district's non-compliance with the child's current IEP. This advocacy has reversed the disciplinary action which allows the child back into the school and expunges the adverse mark in the school record. Further, it brings to the forefront that the school district is in non-compliance and strongly encourages the enforcement of the directives in the child's IEP. This likely would never have happened without the knowledge base and service skills of the Consultants.

It is not surprising that 22.5% or 355 of our children who are referred struggle with problems. The Consultants employ the following hands-on interventions to assist each child in improving their academic achievement: developing relationships and learning strategies with the school, caregiver and student; small group instruction; homework modification; moving the child's desk closer to the teacher; establishing positive incentives; creating structured routines; requesting student study/success teams; developing behavior contracts; requesting special education assessments; arranging professional and/or peer tutoring; and, addressing and monitoring poor attendance in class/school.

### **Data Outcomes**

Attachment A summarizes the data which has been collected and tabulated for the first nine months of the fiscal year, commencing July 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 to determine the performance outcomes of the services provided by the Consultants. There are eighteen specific service areas with a nineteenth choice for "other." Multiple service areas can be selected for each referral; therefore, when tabulating, 100% may be exceeded. These referrals are not counted until each service area has been resolved. Once a resolution has been reached for all the selected service areas, the referral is considered completed. A total of 1577 service areas have been completed. As mentioned earlier, 24.9% or 392 children involved enrollment issues, 23.2% or 366 children involved IEP issues, 22.5% or 355 children addressed academic challenges (poor grades). The next four highest requested areas of service were: Special Education issues with 14.3% or 226 children, Team Decision Making (TDM) with 13.1% or 206 children, behavioral concerns at 12.7% or 201 children, and records with 11.7% or 184 children. The increasing numbers of TDM requests is an indicator of CSWs' awareness of addressing the child's educational needs when discussing placements issues.

### **Communication and Building Bridges**

All of these matters require direct communication with the involved school site and perhaps the district office. Therefore, it is very important for the Department to keep the lines of communication open with each district we work with to develop and strengthen relationships to



reach a shared understanding on the importance of improving the educational outcomes for the children served by both agencies.

The Consultants work closely with schools when advocating for the needs of our youth. Many individuals at school sites are unfamiliar with AB 490 and the rights it bestows on foster youth. The use of consultants allows for a training opportunity to educate the school about the new law while resolving the enrollment or school stability issue. By taking this approach we improve the service to our youth. The same applies with the school district's knowledge and compliance with special education law and the due process requirements in discipline. The advocacy role of the Consultant is done in a collaborative, rather than adversarial, manner with the Consultants reporting that the majority of their interactions with various schools and school district personnel have lead to the development of stronger working relationships through improved communication.

#### **Classification Study and Contract Continuation**

Progress continues in the feasibility study to establish a new permanent position for these services. The hope is to expand the valuable services by creating County Education Personnel Items to replace the contracts for the Education Consultant Services.

In summary, the Department is very pleased by the large number of youth being served by the current number of Education Consultants under contract. We are proud of the program's success and accomplishments. With the Board's continued support, we look forward to the continual improvement of the educational outcomes of the children we serve.

If you have questions, please call me or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Board Liaison at (213) 351-5530.

PSP:AC:HK

JH:pa

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Chief Executive Officer  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Children and Families Well-Being Cluster  
County Counsel

## DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILY SERVICES

[illegible]





PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW  
Director

**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

November 13, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW  
Director

*man*

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District  
YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District  
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District  
DON KNABE  
Fourth District  
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**MARCH 13, 2007 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #15 – EDUCATION CONSULTANT  
REFERRALS AND BI-ANNUAL REPORT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS' PERFORMANCE  
IN PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

This report is to provide an update on the service provision by our contracted Education Consultants in Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) regional offices. We are providing an overview and description of the services they have provided, as well as statistical data on those services for the period from April 2008 to August 2008.

The assistance of the Education Consultants continues to be well-received by the Children's Social Workers (CSW), caregivers, and the school districts since their official arrival into the regional offices in April 2007. The focused and knowledgeable educational advocacy has been a welcomed asset in serving the educational needs of the youth in care. The Education Consultants are providing a voice for the youth to ensure their education rights are addressed and upheld. As credentialed teachers, the Consultants know the education code and the language used by the schools as well as how to navigate the vast and varied 81 school districts within Los Angeles County. They are able to effectively and efficiently address the services requested by the CSW to help ensure the best possible education outcomes for our children.

The knowledge required to be successful as an Education Consultant is quite extensive. Experience with the administration and process of special education law is essential to be able to advocate for the 33% of the youth served by the Department who are classified as special education students. The top three service areas require expertise in education code and special education law to be able to effectively address the school district's resistance to enrolling students with incomplete records or a history of behavior problems, addressing why and what is needed to overcome a student's academic challenges and the cadre of issues associated with learning disabled or emotionally disturbed students.

As of October 6, 2008, the Department selected four Education Consultants to fill four of the five vacancies we had, which brings our total Consultants under contract to thirteen. The Consultants received training and began service provision to the following offices in mid-October: Compton, Pomona, El Monte, San Fernando Valley, and Lakewood. As such, the next bi-annual report will reflect a significant increase in the number of children referred and educational service needs addressed and resolved. A consultant was selected for the West San Fernando Valley office, however, this candidate declined the contract on October 6, 2008. The Department will continue to seek qualified applicants until the position is filled.

The DCFS Education Section is working with the Compensation Policy Division of the Chief Executive Office and has begun to evaluate the feasibility and need to create a class specification for the Education Consultants in order to convert the contracted positions to County Education Personnel Items. The Department is optimistic about the success of this endeavor as a means to provide consistent full-time assistance for social workers, children and families when dealing with education specific issues.

#### **Youth Benefiting from the Services Provided by the Education Consultants**

During the period from April 2008 to August of 2008, there were 2,179 educational challenges faced by 1,223 of our children resolved by the Education Consultants.

Data was collected and tabulated from the monthly tracking logs submitted by each of the consultants. There are eighteen specific service areas with a nineteenth choice for "other." Multiple service areas can be selected for each referral; therefore, when tabulating the numbers, the data results will exceed 100%. The cases are not counted until each service area has been resolved. Once a resolution has been reached for all of the selected service areas on the referral, the case is considered completed. An average of 1.8 service areas per case were received and completed for each of the 1,223 children who required service.

The following is a table comparing the frequency of services received during the current reporting period (April 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008) and the previous report period (which covered July 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008). Most notable is the increase in Team Decision Making (TDM) conference participation by the Education Consultants. This indicates the Consultant is present at early or critical conferences to address educational issues with both the family and social worker, as well as other service providers who may be in the conference. The value here is that all parties are aware of what specific education issues need to be addressed, and how that will impact the child's chance for a positive outcome. As is also evident, with the exception of the increase in TDM participation, the major service categories remain largely unchanged. The complete table denoting all services provided for the current period is attached to this report.



TOP SERVICE CATEGORIES			
Service	Percentage in Prior Report <i>(July 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008)</i>	Service	Percentage in Current Report <i>(April 1, 2008 - August 31, 2008)</i>
Enrollment	24.9	Enrollment	22.8
IEP	23.2	IEP	20.4
Academic (grades)	22.5	Academic (grades)	19.6
Special Education	14.3	Special Education	12.0
Team Decision Making (TDM)	13.1	Team Decision Making (TDM)	24.1
Behavioral Issues	12.7	Behavioral Issues	13.5
Records	11.7	Records	14.8

In summary, the services provided by the Consultants are services keeping youth in school and offering a better chance for them to have a successful life. With continued support from your Board, we will continue to strive for improvement in the educational outcomes of the children we serve.

If you have questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Board Liaison at (213) 351-5530.

PSP:AC:jh

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Children and Families Well-Being Cluster  
County Counsel

EDUCATION CONSULTANT SERVICES TRACKING, BY OFFICE																					
REPORTING PERIOD: APRIL 2008 TO AUGUST 2008																					
Office	Children Served	TYPE OF SERVICE																			
		TDM	Enrollment	IEP	Academic	Records	Other	Behavioral	Spcl Ed Assmnt	Attendance	Remedial	School of Origin	Study Team	Holder Ed Rights	Supervision	Truancy	Expulsion	Opp Transfer	HIS Exit Exam	Regional Center	TOTAL SERVICES
PASADENA	91	25	16	23	8	21	3	6	3	5	6	1	0	4	0	2	2	1	1	0	127
WATERIDGE	116	22	29	21	35	26	30	34	28	13	18	18	17	6	7	12	4	8	1	6	335
WEST LA	84	12	20	34	3	12	7	10	16	1	0	8	1	0	2	2	0	4	7	1	140
GLENDORA	79	4	22	17	22	13	4	14	8	5	3	0	2	1	3	1	3	0	2	0	124
EL MONTE	42	1	14	12	14	5	4	13	5	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	78
COVINA	5	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
LAKEWOOD	62	17	13	19	27	1	7	20	0	9	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	120
VERMONT CORRIDOR	111	10	22	18	18	12	3	7	0	6	5	0	0	6	2	1	1	1	0	0	112
CORPORATE	25	1	7	4	4	1	3	2	7	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	36
BELVEDERE	64	7	9	20	5	7	8	0	12	4	0	2	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	82
METRO NORTH	105	16	15	21	4	5	28	9	16	3	23	1	3	0	1	1	3	1	1	0	151
SANTA FE SPRINGS	354	130	106	43	94	76	60	41	38	28	15	25	12	21	14	9	14	9	2	6	743
PALMDALE	48	23	1	12	3	0	9	7	9	1	0	0	0	0	7	1	1	1	0	0	75
LANCASTER	37	26	3	3	3	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	46
TOTAL	1223	295	279	250	240	181	168	165	147	81	74	58	43	39	38	34	30	26	18	13	2179
%/Children		24.1%	22.8%	20.4%	19.6%	14.8%	13.7%	13.5%	12.0%	6.6%	6.1%	4.7%	3.5%	3.2%	3.1%	2.8%	2.5%	2.1%	1.5%	1.1%	178.2%

\* Each child received an average of 1.8 services

9/25/2008